

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3911
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2005
EXPENDITURE ON AGRICULTURE IRRIGATION
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether increase in expenditure on agriculture is required in order to strengthen Indian economy;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has drawn up any plan to incur more expenditure on agriculture and irrigation;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The total budget outlay for agriculture including allied sectors of forestry & logging and fishing has been stepped up from Rs.4150 crore in 2004-05 to Rs.5998.40 crore in 2005-06, thus showing an increase of investment by 44.5 per cent. Keeping in view the importance of agriculture in the Indian economy the Union Budget 2005-06 increased outlays in agriculture, including irrigation. The Budget has provided Rs.630 crore in 2005-06 for the National Horticulture Mission, which will ensure end-to-end approach having backward and forward linkages covering research, production, post harvest management, processing and marketing, under one umbrella, in an integrated manner. The Budget has provided Rs.4800 crore for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for 2005-06 compared with Rs.2800 crore in 2004-05. With a view to improving water use efficiency in Indian agriculture, the Budget has provided for Rs.400 crore for promoting micro irrigation in 2005-06. Since the flow of credit is important in accelerating the pace of investment in agriculture, the disbursement of agricultural credit is proposed to be stepped up by 30 per cent in 2005-06 over the credit disbursement of Rs.1,15,243 crore in 2004-05, which exceeded the credit disbursement of Rs.86,981 crore made in 2003-04 by 32 per cent. Livestock and Dairying have also received greater attention through enhanced budget outlays as well as defined policies towards cross breeding and delineation of disease free zone. Simultaneously since agriculture is a state subject, states will have to increase their budgetary outlays on agriculture.

(d): Does not arise.